

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 L-03 HEW-02 JUSE-00 SSO-00

FBIE-00 SCA-01 PRS-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00

EB-07 NSAE-00 AS-01 ARA-06 /038 W

----- 110851

O R 291807Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8921

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0861

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN: (WHITE, CARL AND NORMA JEAN)

SUBJ: RETURN OF WHITES TO US

REFS: (A) BTN 0830 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 120249 (NOTAL)

(C) CARACAS 5379 (NOTAL)

CARACAS FOR LEGATT

1. AS DEPARTMENT NOW AWARE, CARL WHITE FAMILY AND ACCOMPANYING MARSHALS DEPARTED BARBADOS AS SCHEDULED ON MAY 24. WHOLE OPERATION RAN SMOOTHLY WITH WHITE FAMILY UNAWARE THAT MARSHALS WERE "DISCREETLY" ESCORTING THEM TO U.S.

2. INFORMATION REGARDING FAMILY IN US SUBMITTED IN REFTEL (B).

3. ONE LESSON THAT EMERGED FROM WHITE OPERATION APPLICABLE TO FUTURE CASES IS THAT EMBASSY MUST BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL OF US ARMED PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN NECESSARY GOB CLEARANCES. IN FACT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO OPERATE WITHOUT ARMED PERSONNEL TO EXTENT FEASIBLE, IN VIEW OF STRINGENT WEAPONS LAWS OF BARBADOS AND NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IN CASE UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, EMBASSY NOTIFIED COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

OF ARRIVAL OF MARSHALS AND THIS OFFICIAL MET THEM AT AIRPORT AND SUPERVISED CHECKING OF ARMS WITH CUSTOMS PERSONNEL. FOLLOWING DAY, CUSTOMS OFFICER ON DUTY REFUSED TO RELEASE ARMS TO MARSHALS AND, AS POLICE COMMISSIONER COULD NOT BE LOCATED; WEAPONS WERE ENTRUSTED TO EAL PILOT WHO LATER RETURNED THEM DURING FLIGHT.

4. THERE WAS SLIGHT PROBLEM WITH NEWS MEDIA SINCE NEWS OF MARSHAL'S ARRIVAL WAS APPARENTLY LEAKED TO CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING COMPANY. LOCAL TV CAMERAMAN ARRIVED AT AIRPORT (WITHOUT NOTICE TO EMBASSY) TO RECORD DEPARTURE; HOWEVER, EAL MANAGER WAS ABLE TO PREVENT HIM FROM PHOTOGRAPHING AIRCRAFT. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SEVERAL HIJACKERS ARE STILL IN CUBA, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO AVOID, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, ANY EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY RE WHITE'S FATE AFTER HIS RETURN.

5. POLICE COMMISSIONER REED WAS ANNOYED THAT BARBADOS IMMIGRATION ALLOWED THE WHITE FAMILY ENTRY TO BARBADOS BASED ON THEIR INADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION, LITTLE FUNDS, AND NO ONWARD TICKETS TO U.S. IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT A TOUGHER POLICY FROM BARBADOS IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AS FREQUENCY OF ARRIVALS INCREASES. IN THE EVENT THAT LARGE-SCALE EXODUS OF AMERICANS EXPECTED DEPART CUBA AND TRANSIT BARBADOS ENROUTE US, GOB COOPERATION AND PERMISSION MAY BE NECESSARY.

6. FYI: SINCE DRAFTING OF ABOVE, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AND BEGUN TO PROCESS AN ADDITIONAL HIJACKER, GREGORY ALEXANDER GRAVES. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF DETAILS BY TELEPHONE.
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